

CCM MUSICIAN'S ANTI-FUNDAMENTALISM PHILOSOPHY CONTRIBUTED TO MORAL PERVERSION

May 3, 2000 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -- One of the unscriptural philosophies that permeates the field of Contemporary Christian Music, and which makes it so very dangerous to the spiritual health of its adherents, is its rejection of separation from the world. CCM is not holy; it does not make a clear demarcation between worldliness and spirituality. Instead of holiness, CCM practices syncretism, which is combining or synthesizing or uniting differing systems of belief or practice. CCM performer Rick Altizer, in an interview with CCM Magazine, stated: "I think Christian music suffers because Christian people by nature are afraid of the world" (CCM Magazine, August 1998, p. 18). This strange statement describes the attitude which characterizes most of the CCM crowd. They think it is wrong to be afraid of the world, but this is utter nonsense. The Bible repeatedly warns God's people to be afraid of the world, because the world is under the dominion of the Devil and man's fallen flesh. Consider the following Scriptures:

"LOVE NOT THE WORLD, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:15-17).

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the **FRIENDSHIP OF THE WORLD IS ENMITY WITH GOD**? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?" (James 4:4,5)

"And **BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD**: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom **THE WORLD IS CRUCIFIED UNTO ME, AND I UNTO THE WORLD**" (Galatians 6:14).

"And **HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS**, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11).

"Teaching us that, **DENYING** ungodliness and **WORLDLY LUSTS**, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and **TO KEEP HIMSELF UNSPOTTED FROM THE WORLD**" (James 1:27).

"And we know that we are of God, and **THE WHOLE WORLD LIETH IN WICKEDNESS**" (1 John 5:19).

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, **IN THE MIDST OF A CROOKED AND PERVERSE NATION**, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15).

“And that ye may **PUT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOLY AND UNHOLY, AND BETWEEN UNCLEAN AND CLEAN**” (Lev. 10:10).

“Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: **THEY HAVE PUT NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOLY AND PROFANE, NEITHER HAVE THEY SHOWED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE UNCLEAN AND THE CLEAN**, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them” (Ezek. 22:26).

Clay Crosse is a popular CCM musician who won the Dove Award for New Artist of the Year in 1995. Three years later, six of his singles had reached No. 1 and his first two albums had sold more than 400,000 copies. He was one of the top 30 CCM artists of 1998. He was addicted to pornography the whole time. An article in CCM Magazine recently reported that in 1998 Cross admitted to his wife that he had long been addicted to pornography.

Notice what this CCM musician testified about how his easy-going philosophy toward the world contributed to his moral perversion: “Because I valued being an open-minded Christian, I allowed things into my life that someone who’s trying to be Christ-like should not. It filtered in through TV shows, comedians. I’d go see movies that really pushed the envelope, arguing that they had artistic value, even if I knew they weren’t the kind of things I should be seeing as a Christian” (Melissa Riddle, “Brave New World,” CCM Magazine, May 2000, p. 51).

This is a loud warning about the do-your-own-thing philosophy which has permeated Contemporary Christian Music today. Those who warn against unwholesome movies, sensual music, immodest dress, etc., are called legalists and Pharisees, but godly boundaries protect people from moral and spiritual destruction. The wall of biblical separation is not an unloving, hurtful thing, but a compassionate and protective thing. Clay Crosse learned this the hard way, as have hundreds of other CCM musicians who have fallen into the clasp of moral perversion through their careless living and refusal to practice separation.

I do not report these things to gloat over this man’s problems. All men are sinners, and none are above temptation and failure. I am glad that Clay Cross has confessed his addiction to pornography and has taken steps to make things right in his life, and I pray that he will have permanent victory. I did not break this story or expose the man. I am merely commenting on an article which was published in the largest and most influential Christian music magazine today; and I am doing so to warn God’s people about the danger of the CCM philosophy. Churches which desire to remain pure from the pollutions of the world, must reject Contemporary Christian Music.